

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

MARCH 17, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Common Council of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 330 N Main Street Suite 200, Rushville, Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was recited by those present.

PRAYER: Councilman Berkemeier led those present in prayer.

ROLL CALL: Bob Bridges, Brad Berkemeier, Elton Marzon, Mike Daubenspeck, and Aaron Gurley answered roll call. Megan Bradley was not present. Also present was City Attorney, Tracy Newhouse.

PUBLIC HEARING: 903 W 1ST Street – Duke Annexation – Newhouse explained that this is a voluntary annexation. He asked if anyone had any questions or comments. There were none. Berkemeier moved to close the public hearing. Gurley seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING: Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2020-10 – Copley explained that this was money that was originally put in the budget, but due to accidentally not including the pilot funds as revenue all of the general budget was not approved. She has amended the revenue expected for 2020 and will request approval for the funds that were not approved. There were no questions or comments. Marzon moved to close the public hearing. Gurley seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

MINUTES: Daubenspeck moved to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Pavey reported the following:

1. At present the Mayor's 5K has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. It may be re-scheduled later this year.
2. The County, City, Health Department, and Dr. Daugherty have been meeting in regard to the Coronavirus. Mayor Pavey said he is very pleased with the cooperation from everyone.
3. Rush County Schools are utilizing e-learning this week. They also have a schedule for meals.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: Copley asked for signatures for the resolutions that were passed at the previous meeting but were not signed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Berkemeier said Council has 3 appointments to the Community Giving Board. He said if anyone knew of someone that may be interested to let him know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Stellar Designation** – We continue to push through the project at Riverside Park.
- **Amphitheater/Park Board** – Fund raising is going well.
- **APC/BZA** – Scheduled meeting tomorrow.
- **Housing** – Paperwork is being prepared and signed.
- **ECDC** – We continue discussion with Project Local.
- **Cherry Street Extension** – The attorneys continue their conversations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Animal Control – Activity is slow due to the virus.

Park – We are having discussion regarding the opening of the City pool and the pandemic.

The Board of Works approved hiring Andrew Miller for seasonal help.

Police – Chief Tucker said they have been maintaining lines of communication. We are screening callers regarding any exposure to the virus.

Street – Commissioner Miller reported that they have been helping Rosfeld installing conduit at Riverside Park and the Animal Shelter.

Fire – Chief Munson informed Council that the Board of Works approved promoting Kirk Trebley to Captain, and Jeremy Green to Lieutenant.

They have also posted “no visitors”.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS: Berkemeier said he continues talking to residents on the south side of town. He will have an update soon.

Councilman Gurley asked about the utility disconnection process. Mayor Pavey said there would be no shut offs at least for the 1st month of the pandemic and will also eliminate the \$3.00 fee for on-line payments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Street Light Project** – Mayor Pavey said they continue tracking 3 residents. We do not need easements from them. Berkemeier offered to help.

2. Property Annexation:

Duke Annexation Ordinance 2020-5 – A public hearing was held today. The Ordinance will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Yazel Annexation Ordinance 2020-9 – The public hearing will be held at the next meeting.

3. **Ordinance 2020-8 Downtown Parking Ordinance** – Pavey said this has fallen behind on the priority list.
4. **Ordinance 2020-7 Trash Fee** – Councilman Berkemeier said everyone has done a good job gathering information and sending it to Council.

Mayor Pavey said we can have discussion tonight, however, we only need to introduce the ordinance tonight. He expects to send more markups. Everyone was in agreement that currently our main concern is the Coronavirus. He said no one wants to make this kind of decision, but our finances aren't getting any better.

Marzon said he believes this is a critical decision to make. However, the world has changed dramatically since we first began the trash discussion.

Pavey said we are not a money making entity. It is important to realize we have kicked the can down the road for quite some time. It is to the point that we can't kick it anymore. We have done a lot of work trying to figure out the right program and how to implement it.

Daubenspeck said due to the virus some people don't have a job and he is concerned about how they are going to pay this fee. He said he thought the best thing to do is kick it down the road for 2 months.

Pavey said we can do that but we need to get it through the introduction process. We can also go through the public hearing piece. The pandemic has presented an open door policy where we can have an audio feed system for the public to voice concerns and get answers to their questions. Ron Jarman can set this up for us.

Bridges said this is something that has to be done. No one deserves to take the blame. It's just bad timing.

Pavey said business for the next 60 days is going to be completely different.

Bridges asked if anyone had an issue with the proposed fee.

Berkemeier commented that the longer we wait the higher we will have to go on the fee.

Gurley said we want to make sure we don't come back in a year and find out we need to raise the fee.

Bridges suggested that if we don't do heavy trash this year we can save a little of money and may be able to wait a little longer to implement the fee.

Commissioner Miller said if we do away with heavy trash pick-up we can do away with 2 flatbeds.

Council agrees to begin collecting the fee June 1st. Daubenspeck made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-7. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **1900 N Main** – Newhouse said we do not have a date set since we just received the second appraisal today.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 2020-14 Reduction in Spending** – Gurley moved to approve Resolution 2020-14. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Ordinance 2020-10 Additional Appropriations** – Bridges moved to approve Ordinance 2020-10. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Ordinance 2020-11 Amended Salary Ordinance (EMS Stipend, Animal Control)** – Gurley moved to approve Ordinance 2020-11. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Police Department Request to Purchase Radio Console** – Chief Tucker informed Council that he would like to purchase a radio system from the County and refurbish it at a cost of \$9000.00. The equipment should last another 5 years once it is refurbished. New equipment would cost about \$60,000.00. Tucker said he has money in his budget. He has discussed this with the Fire Chief and he has offered to pitch in funds from his EMS budget. Daubenspeck moved to approve the purchase. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Corona Virus (COVID-19) Update Policy** – Mayor Pavey presented a policy that he would like Council to approve which allows us to function in the state of an emergency. Berkemeier made a motion to approve the Mayor's entrance into the agreement with the Covid-19 response policy. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **Ordinance 2020-12 Emergency Pay (Corona Virus)** - Newhouse explained that this would help to eliminate ghost employment. Bridges made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-12. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVAL AND MONTHLY BANK RECONCILIATION – Marzon moved to approve the claims and the February bank reconciliation as presented. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE: None.

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before Council; Berkemeier moved to adjourn. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.